

Message Text

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FOR US DEL LOS

FOL RPT ATHENS 3467 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ANKARA NICOSIA USNATO
USUN NEW YORK ISTANBUL THE HAGUE 25 APR 78 QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: GR, TU
SUBJECT: GREEK REACTION TO TURKISH PRESENTATION TO THE ICJ

1. THE MFA OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR TURKISH AFFAIRS, COMMENTING ON THE TURKISH BRIEF SUBMITTED YESTERDAY TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (ICJ) AT THE HAGUE CONCERNING THE COURT'S JURISDICTION IN THE GREEK-TURKISH AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE, TOLD US THAT THE TURKISH PRESENTATION WAS IN ACCORD WITH WHAT THE GOG HAD ANTICIPATED AND THAT THERE WAS NOTHING NEW IN IT. THE TURKS ARGUE THAT THE COURT SHOULD NOT BECOME INVOLVED AT THIS STAGE, THAT THE AEGEAN DISPUTE IS A "POLITICAL ISSUE", AND THEREFORE GREECE AND TURKEY SHOULD FIRST SEEK TO RESOLVE IT THROUGH BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS. THE GREEK VIEW, HE CONTINUED, WAS THAT BOTH PROCEDURES -- NEGOTIATIONS AND ICJ
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CONSIDERATION OF THE DISPUTE -- SHOULD PROCEED IN TANDEM.
OUR SOURCE SAID THE DATE TO HEAR ORAL ARGUMENTS HAD NOT BEEN FIXED BUT THAT GREECE WOULD PROPOSE A DATE IN LATE SEPTEMBER TO THE ICJ.

2. THE GREEK PRESS TODAY HIGHLIGHTED THE DEVELOPMENTS SURROUNDING THE TURKISH ICJ SUBMISSION, DRAWING PRIMARILY ON WIRE REPORTS

FROM ANKARA. SEVERAL ACCOUNTS NOTED ADDITIONALLY THAT ACCORDING TO POLITICAL CIRCLES IN ATHENS THE TURKISH MOVE REFLECTED A HARDENING OF THAT COUNTRY'S POSITION IN ITS RELATIONS WITH GREECE AND THAT THE ACTION WAS RELATED TO TURKISH CONCERN THAT EFFORTS TO LIFT THE ARMS EMBARGO WOULD FAIL AND TO THE GOG'S DECISION NOT TO ATTEND THE FORMERLY SCHEDULED MEETING BETWEEN THE RESPECTIVE MFA SECRETARIES GENERAL. THESE SAME CIRCLES WERE SAID TO HAVE CLAIMED THAT TURKEY'S UNWILLINGNESS TO USE THE ICJ AS 61 OTHER NATIONS HAVE ALREADY DONE TO SETTLE THEIR DIFFERENCES SHOWED THAT TURKEY WAS NOT DISPOSED TO RESOLVE THE PENDING PROBLEMS THROUGH PEACEFUL PROCEDURES.
MCCLOSKEY

UNQUOTE VANCE

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